

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the specification by replacing paragraph that spans the bottom of p. 21 through the top of page 21 with the replacement paragraph indicated below:

Such an embodiment is illustrated in Figures 1 and 2. Fig. 1 illustrates schematically the operation of an embodiment of a method in accordance with the present invention at an intermediate stage after the addition of aptamers to an aliquot with a sample being analyzed. In this example, we are performing a quantitative assay for target proteins A and B, namely items **106** and **107** respectively, that occur in low abundance in a sample contained in a region **101**, which is here a vessel such as an Eppendorf tube. Also in the sample in Fig. 1 are a number of proteins that are not of interest, namely X and Y, items **102** and **103** and ~~**104**~~, respectively. Also placed in the region is an aptamer **104** that is specific for protein A and an aptamer **105** that is specific for protein B. These aptamers are present in relatively larger abundance in the region than the target proteins, with the result that substantially all of proteins A and B in the region form complexes with their respective aptamer, and excess uncomplexed quantities of each of the aptamers for each of the target proteins remain in the sample.

Support for this amendment is found in Fig. 1, and represents obvious error in that the description, and Fig. 1, make clear that items X and Y, examples of target molecules, are correctly labeled as **102** and **103**, respectively, in Fig. 1, and erroneously described as numbers **103** and **104** in the text on pp. 10-21.